THE

Hatfield Rural District Council.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1911.

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Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1911.

HATFIELD,

13/2/12.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my annual report for the year 1911.

With the exception of a recrudescence of the Diphtheria prevalence referred to in my last two annual reports, there have been no influences acting adversely to the Public Health of your District.

In February there was a report of a case of Diphtheria in the outskirts of the village of Hatfield, but the practitioner who notified the case, subsequently withdrew the notification. In April there were five cases reported, in May there was one, in June there were two, and in October there was one.

There were elements of doubt concerning the first and last of these cases. In April a Health Visitor was engaged, whose duties were to systematically examine the throats of children who were suspect, and to spray all inspected throats with a suitable antiseptic. Twenty-two specimens were taken from throats of suspects, and subjected to examination in a laboratory, and in no case was the bacillus of Diphtheria detected. In connection with the case reported in October, two specimens were sent to the laboratory, and in neither of these was the Diphtheria bacillus detected. In nearly all the specimens Streptococci were found however, in one case Staphylococci, and the Hoffman bacillus was found in six cases. There were three deaths.

Having reported very fully on various occasions to you during the last two years upon the Diphtheria prevalence, I only propose on this occasion to state that there is still room for investigation into the causation of the prevalence of this disorder.

The disease is endemic in the Country, and when the conditions are suitable for its prevalence a large number of children suffer from its attack, but when the conditions are unsuitable, there is no general prevalence. The connection between outside conditions and the general prevalence of all degrees of sore throats, is a matter which, so far as my knowledge serves me, requires the most careful consideration, and cannot be dismissed in a summary way by attributing the prevalence to the presence of the bacillus of Diphtheria in a certain number of throats, and the transmission of it from one throat to another.

In the present instance the bacillus of Diphtheria has not been detected sufficiently often to warrant any such conclusion, and it is quite possible, and in my opinion probable, that when the disease assumes epidemic proportions, a large number of the children affected are infected by organisms which have become specialised in function by changes of a catarrhal nature, produced in the throats of the children by outside conditions. In consequence of this view I have recommended, and intend in future to recommend to you, that the proper course to pursue, when epidemic prevalence is anticipated, is that of systematic observation of throats by a Health Visitor, and the use of an antiseptic spray for all throats which present any unhealthy appearance, whether the bacillus of Diphtheria is found or not.

This plan has the merit of success—the number of cases within the last three years which have been reported, is reasonably small in view of all the conditions.

The death-rate has been that of the disease before the introduction of the Diphtheria antitoxin, and I have in other reports dealt with the reasons of the failure of this remedy to secure a better result.

Scarlet fever is another disease endemic in this country. In Hatfield village no case occurred during the whole of this year, notwithstanding the fact that in the autumn of 1910 appearances were in favour of an epidemic of considerable proportions. During the autumn of 1910 and the spring of 1911, a very large number of children were continuously under my observation, and were sprayed with a suitable antiseptic: the question arises, therefore, whether a trial of this method of treatment is not desirable in other districts where epidemic prevalences are threatened.

During this year, only five cases have been reported in the district, none of which occurred in Hatfield village.

During the year there has been a Local Government Board enquiry into the proposed scheme for dealing with the Hatfield Sewage, which resulted in the adoption of a scheme, the works

for which are shortly to be commenced. The report of the Inspector of Nuisances is appended to this report. He has served 19 notices on owners, to repair yards, wells, drains and open courts, and reports that some of the work is in hand, much is completed, but other repairs not yet commenced.

In future this work must be performed in a more systematic manner; cases have come to my notice of great delay in the prosecution of work, which should have been commenced and finished at a very much earlier date than has proved to be the case. In connection with this statement, reference may be made to the necessity for systematic inspection of the district by the Inspector—a matter upon which I have already reported to you.

Every part of the district should be visited at least quarterly, and every registered cowshed and dairy also. The Inspector is, or should be, my intelligence officer, but during my various inspections I have not found such systematic work of inspection has been carried out. The whole matter is one of method and industry and is one which can be reasonably demanded of a whole time officer.

I have had no fault to find with either dairies or cowsheds during the year; the Inspector has visited 22 of these premises and in only one case found cause for complaint.

The slaughterhouses and bakehouses have been kept in a cleanly condition.

Water supply.—A constant supply is given to 649 houses in Hatfield, and in North Mymms to 90 houses. In Northaw the supply is from Standpipes and from Pumps. In Essendon the supply is from Standpipes in the case of 80 houses, and there are five wells. Hatfield possesses 69 wells, North Mymms 53, and Northaw 8. The water is sufficient in quantity and good in quality.

I have found only one case of river pollution, which was that in connection with the fouling of the water of the river Lea from a Stock Shed in the occupation of farmer, and owned by the Great Northern Railway Company. The matter was reported by me to the Railway Company and dealt with by its surveyor.

The drainage and sewerage of Little Heath has been dealt with, and house connections have all, or nearly all been made to the new sewer. The outfall works and tanks have been efficiently managed and I have heard of no complaints.

In Hatfield there are	664	pail closets and		509	water closets.		
In North Mymms	,,	288	,,	,,	116	,,	,,
In Essendon	,,	89	,,	,,	42	,,	,,
In Northaw	,,	94	,,	,,	32	,,	,,

In Hatfield village a Contractor removes house refuse, and the contents of privies, ashpits, and cesspools, and also in Little Heath.

These duties in the hamlets and villages are dealt with by the occupiers. I have no reason to believe that the work is insufficiently carried out.

Housing Accommodation.—

The number of houses in Hatfield is 1,173.

,,	,,	North Mymms,	404.
,,	,,	Essendon,	131.
,,	,,	Northaw,	126.

Thirty seven new houses have been built in the district and ten cleansed during the year. Various houses have been dealt with.

Under the provisions of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 42 houses have been surveyed and inspected, and it is proposed that this work shall be continued systematically. As a result of these inspections 19 notices have been served on owners to repair yards, walls, drains and open courts.

The Factory and Workshops Act.—There are no complaints to be specially referred in connection with the premises which came within the purview of these Acts, and no detriment to health has been noticed arising from the employment of persons working in them.

Vital Statistics.—The net death-rate in 11·8, and the calculated mean annual rate for the last ten years is 11·4975 per 1,000. The birth-rate is 22·5 per 1,000, as compared with the mean annual rate of 23·9905.

The infantile death-rate per 1,000 is 1·61 compared with the mean annual rate of 2·1029.

In view of the climatic conditions which existed during the summer and autumn quarters, the district is to be congratulated on the fact that there were only five deaths registered as the result of diarrhœa, and that the infant death-rate is below the mean annual rate.

I have the honour to report, in conclusion, that your district is in a satisfactory condition, and to thank you for your consideration of and courtesy to me.

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
LOVELL DRAGE, M.D. (Oxon),
Medical Officer of Health.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Inspector of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	4	...	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	20	...	...
Workplaces	...	...	...
Homeworkers' Premises	...	...	...
Total	24	...	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	...	...
Want of Ventilation	1	1	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of Floors ...	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation — insufficient	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation — unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation — not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...
Total	3	3	...	...

Workshops on the Register ... —

Notified by H.M. Inspector under the Public Health Acts ... —

Table I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1911 and Previous Years.

Name of District - - - HATFIELD RURAL.

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
			Nett.						Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.	
		Uncorrected Number.	Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*	of Non-Residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1906	7551	200	200	26·4	87	11·5	...	3	21	105	90	11·9
1907	,,	162	162	21·4	86	11·5	3	7	21	105	90	11·9
1908	,,	207	207	27·2	72	9.5	...	4	9	43·4	76	10
1909	,,	205	205	27·1	83	10·9	...	2	17	82.9	85	11·2
1910	,,	186	186	24·6	94	12·7	...	11	12	64·5	105	13·7
1911	8592	194	194	22.5	97	11	3	8	14	67	102	11.8

*Rates in Columns 3, 7 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 23,386.
Total population at all ages at Census of 1911, 8,592.
Number of inhabited houses at ditto, 1,850. Average number of persons per house at ditto, 4·5.

Table II.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1911.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.								Total Cases Notified in each Locality.				Total Cases removed to Hospital
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							Hatfield.	North Mimms.	Northaw.	Essendon.	
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.					
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	10	1	3	4	...	2	...	...	10	...	...	...	4
Erysipelas	3	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	5	...	...	2	1	2	...	...	3	1	1	...	2
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
PHTHISIS—													
Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908	4	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	3	...	1	...	...
Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1911	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Totals	24	1	3	7	3	5	5	...	19	2	3	...	6

Isolation Hospital - - HERTFORD AND WARE INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL.

Total available Beds ... 8 Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated ... 2.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1911.

Cause of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring in or beyond the District.									Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards	
Whooping Cough	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	3	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	3	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...
Other tuberculous diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Rheumatic Fever	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1
Cancer, malignant disease	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	1
Bronchitis	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...
Broncho-Pneumonia	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Pneumonia (all other forms)	7	...	...	1	...	1	5	...	...	2
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	5	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Alcoholism	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	11	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	2	2
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	39	1	...	1	2	...	3	11	2	9
	102	14	1	4	6	3	17	25	32	17

TABLE IV.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1911.

Nett Deaths from Stated Causes at various Ages under one Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	3
Premature Birth	5	1	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	6
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
Bronchitis	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	5	1	1	...	7	3	...	2	2	14

Births in the year { Legitimate, 189. Illegitimate, 5.

Report of Sanitary Inspector,

For the Rural Urban District of Hatfield, for the Year 1911.

INSPECTIONS.

	Number of Premises Inspected.	Visits Paid.
HOUSES—		
Houses inspected in routine	153	
Do. re-inspected	35	
Do. inspected on complaint	15	
Do. inspected for special inquiry	2	
Do. after infectious disease, visits to	10	
Common Lodging Houses inspected	2	
SCHOOLS—		
Visits to	4	
TRADE PREMISES—		
Bakehouses	6	
Laundries	3	
Cowsheds	10	
Milkshops	1	
Food Manufactories	2	
Other Factories	4	
Other Workshops and Workplaces	20	
Visits after serving Notice...	30	
Do. to works in progress	18	

NEW OR REMEDIAL WORK.

HOUSES—

Houses erected, 37; Houses Disinfected, 10; Cleansed, 10; Houses in which Overcrowding Abated, 2; Walls, damp and defective, Remedied, 14; Roof, guttering or spouting, Repaired, many; Windows made to open, 11; Lighting improved, 11; Ventilation improved, 11.

DRAINAGE—

Privies abolished, 10; Privies changed to pail-closets, 4; Pail-closets, new, 9; Repaired, several; Water-closets to new houses, 39; to old houses, 60; Water-closets supplied with water, 60; Cisterns and flushing apparatus Repaired, 3; Urinals repaired, 2; Drains newly constructed, 99; Drains tested by water, 90; by smoke, 9; Houses connected to sewers, new houses, 39; old Cesspools emptied, 69 during the year, 4 times each, average.

WATER—

Wells Cleansed or Repaired, 2; Closed, 2; Samples of water taken for analyses, 2; Houses connected with Water-mains, old, 43; Cisterns cleansed, repaired or covered, 3.

YARDS—

Yards repaired, several; Ashpits removed, 1; Sanitary dustbins provided, 13; Accumulations of Manure, etc., removed, 2.

TRADE PREMISES—

Factories, ventilation improved, 1; Factories supplied with proper closet accommodation, 1; Workshops cleansed or limewashed. 20; Bakehouses cleansed or limewashed, 6.

FOOD—

Carcases inspected, 1; condemned or partly so, 1; Samples of milk taken, 3.

VARIOUS—

Birds and animals improperly kept, removed, 3, Fowls.

H. T. SIDWELL, F.I.S.E., Mem. C.M.E.S., M.I.Mun.E.,
District Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances.

Ralph Humphry, Printer, Hatfield.